

## A RESOLUTION BY THE STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

**Whereas**, former Georgia Department of Transportation Commissioner J. Tom Coleman was born in 1928 in Savannah, and passed away on June 4, 2014; and

**Whereas**, Tom Coleman graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology, was a captain of the football team and is in the Georgia Tech Athletic Hall of Fame. Upon graduation he began his long history of public service by becoming a school teacher and football coach at Rossville High School; and

**Whereas**, Tom Coleman was called to duty and served as an Infantry Captain in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict, and continued serving in the U.S. Army Reserves. After returning to Savannah, he founded Bonitz of Georgia, Inc., a successful construction company, and served as Chairman of the Board for sixty years; and

**Whereas**, he was one of the driving forces behind the Truman Parkway, with the final phase of construction completed just prior to his passing; and

**Whereas**, he ran for public office and served as a member of the Savannah City Council and was later elected Chairman of the Chatham County Commission; and

**Whereas**, in 1980 Tom Coleman was elected to the Georgia Legislature as a Senator representing the people of Savannah for nearly 15-years. During his tenure at the Capitol, he was Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, a member of the Appropriations Committee, the Continuation Committee, the Health and Human Services Committee and the Banking and Financial Institutions Committee; and

**Whereas**, he was vice chair of the Georgia Rail Passenger Authority Overview Committee and a member of the MARTA Overview Committee; and

**Whereas**, Tom Coleman was appointed by Governor Zell Miller to serve on the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia; and

**Whereas**, Governor Roy Barnes encouraged him to be the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Transportation, knowing his successful experience as a leader and as a building contractor would strengthen the Agency's business approach of accountability and fiscal responsibility; and

**Whereas**, Tom Coleman, was a man devoted to his family, an amazing community leader, a selfless public servant, a successful businessman and a gentleman that will be missed by all Georgians.

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the State Transportation Board memorializes Tom Coleman for his outstanding contributions and long history of public service.

**Be it further resolved** that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and a suitable copy be presented to the family of J. Tom Coleman in recognition of his devoted and commendable service to the Georgia Department of Transportation, the City of Savannah, Chatham County and to the people of the State of Georgia.

**Adopted this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014.**

**Approved:**

  
Keith Golden, Commissioner  
Georgia Department of Transportation

  
Jay Shaw, Chairman  
State Transportation Board

**Attest:**

  
Emily Dunn, Secretary  
State Transportation Board